

What is claimed is:

1. A program operating apparatus comprising:
a first CPU that has operation thereof controlled
5 by a first control program;
a second CPU that has operation thereof controlled
by a second control program;
first storage means capable of storing the first
control program, the second control program, and a
10 write control program;
second storage means capable of storing the second
control program; and
write control means operable when a mode of the
apparatus is switched to a write control mode in which
15 the second control program is written to said second
storage means, for executing write control comprising
transferring the write control program to said second
CPU, and causing said second CPU to write the second
control program stored in said first storage means to
20 said second storage means.
2. A program operating apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein said write control means is operable
when the mode of the apparatus is switched to the write
control mode, for transferring the write control
25 program for executing a process of writing the second
control program to said second storage means to a
storage area accessible by said second CPU, and causing

said second CPU to execute the write control program to thereby write the second control program stored in said first storage means to said second storage means.

3. A program operating apparatus according to
5 claim 1, wherein said first storage means is removable from the program operating apparatus.

4. A program operating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second storage means comprises a rewritable non-volatile storage medium.

10 5. A program operating apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said second storage means comprises a rewritable non-volatile storage medium provided in said second CPU.

6. A program operating apparatus according to
15 claim 1, comprising switching means for switching between a normal control mode in which normal control of the apparatus is carried out and the write control mode.

7. A program operating apparatus according to
20 claim 1, which is applicable to an image forming apparatus for forming images on sheets.

8. A program operating apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said image forming apparatus comprises a main body, and at least one functional unit, and
25 wherein said first CPU controls basic operation of said main body of said image forming apparatus, and said second CPU controls operations of said at least one

functional unit.

9. A program operating apparatus according to claim 1, which is applicable to a finisher for executing post-processing on sheets having images
5 formed thereon.

10. A program operating apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said finisher comprises a main body, and at least one functional unit, and wherein said first CPU controls basic operation of said main body of
10 said finisher, and said second CPU controls operations of said at least one functional unit.

11. A program write control apparatus installed on a program operating apparatus comprising a first CPU that has operation thereof controlled by a first
15 control program, a second CPU that has operation thereof controlled by a second control program, first storage means capable of storing the first control program, the second control program, and a write control program, and second storage means capable of
20 storing the second control program, the program write control apparatus comprising:

write control means operable when a mode of the apparatus is switched to a write control mode in which the second control program is written to said second
25 storage means, for executing write control comprising transferring the write control program to said second CPU, and causing said second CPU to write the second

control program stored in said first storage means to said second storage means.

12. A program write control apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said write control means is operable when the mode of the apparatus is switched to the write control mode, for transferring the write control program for executing a process of writing the second control program to said second storage means to a storage area accessible by said second CPU, and causing said second CPU to execute the write control program to thereby write the second control program stored in said first storage means to said second storage means.

13. A program write control apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said first storage means is removable from the program operating apparatus.

14. A program write control apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said second storage means comprises a rewritable non-volatile storage medium.

15. A program write control apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said second storage means comprises a rewritable non-volatile storage medium provided in said second CPU.

16. A program write control apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said write control means is operable when power is applied to said program operating apparatus to actuate same, for executing the

write control if the mode of the apparatus has been switched to the write control mode by switching means for switching between a normal control mode in which normal control of the apparatus is carried out and the
5 write control mode.

17. A program write control apparatus according to claim 1, which is mounted in an image forming apparatus for forming images on sheets.

18. A program write control apparatus according
10 to claim 17, wherein said image forming apparatus comprises a main body, and at least one functional unit, and wherein said first CPU controls basic operation of said main body of said image forming apparatus, and said second CPU controls operations of said at least
15 one functional unit.

19. A program write control apparatus according to claim 1, which is mounted in a finisher for executing post-processing on sheets having images formed thereon.

20. A program write control apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said finisher comprises a main body, and at least one functional unit, and wherein said first CPU controls basic operation of said main body of said finisher, and said second CPU controls
25 operations of said at least one functional unit.

21. A program write control method executed by a program operating apparatus comprising a first CPU that

has operation thereof controlled by a first control program, a second CPU that has operation thereof controlled by a second control program, first storage means capable of storing the first control program, the second control program, and a write control program, and second storage means capable of storing the second control program, the method comprising the step of:
executing write control comprising transferring the write control program to said second CPU, and causing said second CPU to write the second control program stored in said first storage means to said second storage means when a mode of the apparatus is switched to a write control mode in which the second control program is written to said second storage means.

22. A program write control method according to claim 21, wherein said step of executing the write control comprises transferring the write control program for executing a process of writing the second control program to said second storage means to a storage area accessible by said second CPU, and causing said second CPU to execute the write control program to thereby write the second control program stored in said first storage means to said second storage means, when the mode of the apparatus is switched to the write control mode.

23. A program write control method according to claim 21, which is executed by an image forming

apparatus for forming images on sheets.

24. A program write control method according to claim 21, which is executed by a finisher for executing post-processing on sheets having images formed thereon.

5 25. A program write control method according to claim 23, wherein said image forming apparatus comprises a main body, and at least one functional unit, and wherein said first CPU controls basic operation of said main body of said image forming apparatus, and
10 said second CPU controls operations of said at least one functional unit.

26. A program write control method according to claim 24, wherein said finisher comprises a main body, and at least one functional unit, and wherein said
15 first CPU controls basic operation of said main body of said finisher, and said second CPU controls operations of said at least one functional unit.

27. A program operating apparatus comprising:
at least one functional unit;
20 a first CPU that controls basic operation of the apparatus according to a first control program;
a second CPU that controls operation of said functional unit according to a second control program;
first storage means capable of storing the first
25 control program and the second control program;
second storage means capable of storing the second control program; and

write control means operable when a mode of the apparatus is switched to a write control mode in which the second control program is written to said second storage means, for controlling writing the second control program stored in said first storage means to said second storage means.

28. A program operating apparatus according to claim 27, which is applicable to an image forming apparatus for forming images on sheets.

10 29. A program operating apparatus according to claim 27, which is applicable to a finisher for executing post-processing on sheets having images formed thereon.

30. An image forming apparatus comprising:
15 at least one functional unit;
a first CPU that controls basic operation of the apparatus according to a first control program;
a second CPU that controls operation of said functional unit according to a second control program;
20 first storage means capable of storing the first control program, the second control program, and a write control program;

second storage means capable of storing the second control program; and
25 write control means operable when a mode of the apparatus is switched to a write control mode in which the second control program is written to said second

storage means, for executing write control comprising transferring the write control program to said second CPU, and causing said second CPU to write the second control program stored in said first storage means to
5 said second storage means.

31. A finisher comprising:

at least one functional unit;

a first CPU that controls basic operation of the finisher according to a first control program;

10 a second CPU that controls operation of said functional unit according to a second control program;

first storage means capable of storing the first control program, the second control program, and a write control program;

15 second storage means capable of storing the second control program; and

write control means operable when a mode of the finisher is switched to a write control mode in which the second control program is written to said second
20 storage means, for executing write control comprising transferring the write control program to said second CPU, and causing said second CPU to write the second control program stored in said first storage means to said second storage means.